

CASE STUDY:

BUILDING / ENHANCING SHOOTING RANGES WITH PR EXCISE TAX FUNDS



North Carolina: The Wake County Firearms Education and Training Center

State Agency: North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission

Project/Range Name: Wake County Firearms Education and Training Center (WCFET)

Location: 3921 Old Holly Springs Apex Rd., Apex, NC 27539

Contact information: Josh Jernigan. josh.jernigan@ncwildlife.org (919) 303-0851.

WCFET Website: <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Outdoor-Activities/Shooting-Ranges/Wake-County-Firearms-Education-and-Training-Center>

Project Type: This project was an expansion and rehabilitation of an existing range.

Annual Cost to Operate the Range: \$800,000

Project Timeline: 60 days to relocate and activate the range.

Range Usage: The WCFET Range is designed to accommodate rifle and handgun.

Number of Shooting Lanes/Fields: The WCFET offers three shooting lanes. One, 100-meter lane for long guns. One, 50-meter lane for both rifles and handguns. And one 50-meter lane solely for handgun use.

Intended Users: The WCFET is designed to support hunters, target shooters and to facilitate firearms' safety classes.

How is the Range Staffed: The WCFET is staffed by both full and part-time NC DNR agency personnel.

Funding Services: The WCFET is funded through both state and Federal (PR) grants.

Actual Time to Completion: The project took 60 days to complete.

Biggest Obstacles: The biggest obstacles for the WCFET's opening was negative public perception of range being opened nearby.

How Were Those Obstacles Overcome? The WCFET overcame the negative press and public reaction by mounting vigorous and sustained social media campaign that highlighted the positive experience that the participants had. Further the campaign emphasized the

diverse nature of the attendees and made specific calls to the diverse population that might not feel comfortable shooting at a local range.

What Portion of the Project Took More Time Than Expected? The management team at Wake County Firearms Education and Training Center indicated that the portion of the project that took more time than expected was working on the long-term agreement with the county. The long-term agreement took approximately two years to complete.

What Range Development Resources Were Most Helpful? The WCFET team had to develop an SOP and figure out how to run the range safely and effectively. They found that using their experienced staff's input and direction on how to manage the range, was the most helpful resource.

What Information/Knowledge Do You Know Now That You Wish Knew Earlier? The management staff at the WCFET wished they had reservation program when they initially reopened the range. This reduced customer complaints and made for a more seamless shooting experience. Also, providing mobile shooting benches for the ranges was a lesson that was quickly learned. This addition allowed the staff to adjust the range of the firing lane for class use and training. These benches helped to reduce ceiling and floor strikes.

For additional information on North Carolina shooting ranges, visit: [Shooting Ranges in North Carolina \(ncwildlife.org\)](http://ncwildlife.org)

